

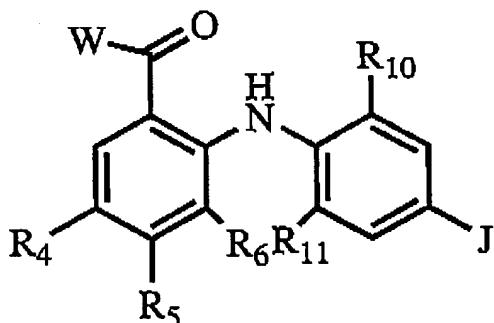
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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:****1-58. (canceled).****59. (currently amended)** A method for treating neuropathic chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from a compound of formula (I)B:

(I)B

wherein

W is OR<sub>1</sub>, NR<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>1</sub>, NR<sub>A</sub>R<sub>B</sub>, NR<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>A</sub>R<sub>B</sub>, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-4</sub>NR<sub>A</sub>R<sub>B</sub>, or NR<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-4</sub>NR<sub>A</sub>R<sub>B</sub>;  
O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-4</sub>OR<sub>1</sub>, or NR<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-4</sub>OR<sub>1</sub>;

R<sub>1</sub> is H, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, phenyl, (phenyl)C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, (phenyl)C<sub>3-4</sub> alkenyl, (phenyl)C<sub>3-4</sub> alkynyl, (C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl)-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, (C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl)C<sub>3-4</sub> alkenyl, (C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl)C<sub>3-4</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> heterocyclic radical, (C<sub>3-8</sub> heterocyclic radical)C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, (C<sub>3-8</sub> heterocyclic radical)C<sub>3-4</sub> alkenyl, or (C<sub>3-8</sub> heterocyclic radical)C<sub>3-4</sub> alkynyl;

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each of  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  is independently H, phenyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl, or  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

each of  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  is independently H, Cl, F, or Br;

$R_A$  is H,  $C_{1-8}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl, phenyl,  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{3-4}$  alkenyl,  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{3-4}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  heterocyclic radical,  $(C_{3-8}$  heterocyclic radical) $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, (aminosulfonyl)phenyl,  $[(aminosulfonyl)phenyl]C_{1-4}$  alkyl, (aminosulfonyl) $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, (aminosulfonyl) $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl, or  $[(aminosulfonyl)C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl] $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R_B$  is H,  $C_{1-8}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl, or phenyl;

$J$  is  $SR_C$ ,  $OR_D$ ,  $SO_2R_C$ ,  $SOR_C$ ,  $SO_2NR_DR_E$ ,  $C_{1-8}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_{5-8}$  cycloalkenyl, phenyl,  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{3-4}$  alkenyl,  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{3-4}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  heterocyclic radical,  $(C_{3-8}$  heterocyclic radical) $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $-M'E'G'$ , (heterocyclic radical)- $M'E'G'$ , or (cycloalkyl)- $M'E'G'$ ;

$M'$  is O, SO,  $SO_2$ ,  $NR_E$ ,  $(CO)NR_E$ ,  $NR_E(CO)$ ,  $SO_2NR_E$ ,  $NR_ESO_2$ , or  $CH_2$ ;

$E'$  is absent (a covalent bond),  $(CH_2)_{1-4}$  or  $(CH_2)_mO(CH_2)_p$  where  $1 \leq (each of m and p independently) \leq 3$  and  $2 \leq (m + p) \leq 4$ ;

$G'$  is  $OR_3$ ,  $SO_2R_C$ , or  $NR_FR_G$ ; provided that where  $p = 1$ , then  $G'$  is H;

each of  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  is independently H, phenyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl, or  $(C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl) $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

each of  $R_C$ ,  $R_D$ ,  $R_E$ ,  $R_F$  and  $R_G$  is independently selected from H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-4}$  alkenyl,  $C_{3-4}$  alkynyl,  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-6}$  heterocyclic radical, and phenyl;  $NR_FR_G$  and  $NR_DR_E$  can each also independently be selected from morpholinyl, pyrazinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, or piperadinyl;

$R_{10}$  is H,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, halo,  $NO_2$ , or  $SO_2NR_HR_I$ ; and

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R<sub>11</sub> is H, halo, or NO<sub>2</sub>;

wherein each hydrocarbon radical or heterocyclic radical above is optionally substituted with between 1 and 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl, phenyl, hydroxy, amino, (amino)sulfonyl, and NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each substituent alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or phenyl is in turn optionally substituted with between 1 and 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl, hydroxy, amino, and NO<sub>2</sub>;

with the proviso that

when W is OH, then J cannot be Me, OMe, SMe, or SO<sub>2</sub>Me;

when W is NHCOH, then J cannot be Me or OEt; and

when W is NR<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>4</sub>, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is H, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, phenyl; R<sub>2</sub> is H, phenyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, then J cannot be SR<sub>2</sub>, OR<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, SOR<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, or Me<sup>2</sup>Ge<sup>2</sup>

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or C<sub>1-7</sub> ester thereof;

with the proviso that either:

R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl;

W is NHO(cyclopropylmethyl);

R<sub>10</sub> is methyl or chloro; R<sub>11</sub> is fluoro;

R<sub>11</sub> is H; J is trihalomethyl or methylthio;

J is 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl;

J is SOCH<sub>3</sub>;

J is C<sub>2-8</sub> alkynyl where the triple bond is between the carbon atoms alpha and beta to the phenyl group;

R<sub>1</sub> has at least one hydroxy substituent;

R<sub>1</sub> is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, benzyl, phenethyl, allyl, C<sub>3-5</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3-5</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-5</sub> cycloalkyl)C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl, or (C<sub>3-5</sub> heterocyclic radical)-C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>1</sub> is H or (C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl)-C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is H, methyl, C<sub>3-4</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-5</sub> cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-5</sub> cycloalkyl)methyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is H, methyl, ethyl, isobutyl, hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl, phenyl, 2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl, 2,3-dihydroxy-propyl, 3-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl, 2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, or 2-diethylamino-ethyl and R<sub>5</sub> is H; or where R<sub>5</sub> is methyl and R<sub>6</sub> is phenyl;

each of R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> is H and R<sub>6</sub> is F;

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each of R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> is F;  
each of R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> is F and R<sub>6</sub> is Br; or  
R<sub>5</sub> is F.

60-67. (canceled).

68. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>C</sub> is C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl.

69 and 70. (canceled)

71. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein W is NHO(cyclopropylmethyl).

72. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>10</sub> is methyl or chloro.

73. (original) A method of claim 59, where R<sub>11</sub> is fluoro.

74. (original) A method of claim 59, where R<sub>11</sub> is H.

75. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is trihalomethyl or methylthio.

76. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl.

77. (canceled)

78. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is SOCH<sub>3</sub>.

79. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein J is C<sub>2-8</sub> alkynyl where the triple bond is between the carbon atoms alpha and beta to the phenyl group.

80. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>1</sub> has at least one hydroxy substituent.

81. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, benzyl, phenethyl, allyl, C<sub>3-5</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3-5</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-5</sub> cycloalkyl)C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl, or (C<sub>3-5</sub> heterocyclic radical)-

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C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl.

82. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is H or (C<sub>3-4</sub> cycloalkyl)-C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl.

83. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is H, methyl, C<sub>3-4</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-5</sub> cycloalkyl)methyl.

84. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>A</sub> is H, methyl, ethyl, isobutyl, hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl, phenyl, 2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl, 2,3-dihydroxy-propyl, 3-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl, 2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl, or 2-diethylamino-ethyl; and R<sub>B</sub> is H; or where R<sub>B</sub> is methyl and R<sub>A</sub> is phenyl.

85. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein each of R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is H, and R<sub>5</sub> is F.

86. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein each of R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> is F.

87. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein each of R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> is F and R<sub>6</sub> is Br.

88. (original) A method of claim 59, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is F.

89. (currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 4-fluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 4-fluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic

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acid; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 4-fluoro-2-(4-methane-sulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; 2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; and N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide.

90. (currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide; 8: 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfinyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-

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benzamide; 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; and N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide.

**91. (currently amended)** A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 3,4-difluoro-2-(4-imidazol-1-yl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-imidazol-1-yl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-imidazol-1-yl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-methyl-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 2-[4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-[4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-[4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-[4-(4-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-2-methyl-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-[2-methyl-4-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-phenylamino]-benzamide; and 3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-[2-methyl-4-[4-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-phenylamino]-benzamide.

**92. (currently amended)** A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-chloro-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-

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benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfanyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 5-bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methylsulfanyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-[2-chloro 4-(3H-imidazol-1-yl)-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-[2-chloro-4-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-[4-(2-chloro-4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-phenylamino]-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-[2-chloro-4-(4-chloro-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl)-phenylamino]-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-(4-[4-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; and 2-(2-chloro-4-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-[1,2,5]thiadiazol-3-yl]-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide.

93. (currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; 5-Bromo-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-Benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 4-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfanyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide; 5-Bromo-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzamide; 5-Bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzamide; and 4-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-methanesulfanyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide.

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**94. (currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; 5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-nitro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-hydroxy-3,4,5-trifluoro- benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)- 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 5-Bromo-2-(4-ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide; 5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 2-(4-Ethynyl-2-chloro-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; 2-(2-Chloro-4-ethynyl-phenylamino)- N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide; 2-(2-Chloro-4-methanesulfinyl-phenylamino)- 4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide; and 2-(2-chloro-4-imidazol-1-yl-phenylamino)- 3,4-Difluoro-benzoic acid.**

**Claims 95-123. (canceled).**

**124. (currently amended) A method of claim 59, wherein said MEK inhibitor has a structure A method for treating chronic pain wherein said chronic pain is associated with arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a composition comprising a MEK inhibitor selected from: 2-(4-ethynyl-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid; and 2-(3',5'-dichloro-biphenyl-4-ylamino)-benzoic acid.**

**Claim 125. (canceled).**